



June 26, 2015

Public Service Agency Representative:

As part of the 2016 budget process, La Plata County is currently accepting applications for funding for public service agencies providing services to the citizens of La Plata County. Public service agencies seeking County funding should fill out and return a completed application form. The application form is available on the County's website at:

http://www.co.laplata.co.us/departments_and_elected_officials/finance.

Much of La Plata County's property tax base is related to coal bed methane gas production, and natural gas prices have fluctuated wildly over the last few years leading to trailing swings in property tax revenue. In 2014 La Plata County's total property tax revenue was \$15.6 million as compared to \$29.7 million in 2010, a decline of 47.8%. Gas and oil property tax revenue is expected to decrease significantly again in 2017 as a result of current declining production and low prices per County Assessor, Craig Larson. He estimated tax revenues from natural gas could drop from 41% of the County's total property tax revenue in 2015 to 30% of the revenue in 2017. As a result, we have requested internal County Departments to formulate their 2016 budgets to help promote long term financial stability of the County. Accordingly, we encourage any public service agency applicants to submit requests at or below 2015 funding levels. Please be aware that any new requests or requests for increases will require substantial justification to be considered and past support does not imply future funding.

1. Requirements for funding:
 - a. Must have a relationship to some activity that the County has statutory authority to perform
 - b. No funding allowed to any church or sectarian society
 - c. La Plata County funds may not be used for capital campaigns or to help with construction projects

2. Priority for funding will generally be given to those requests that demonstrate:
 - a. A relationship to some activity that the County is statutorily mandated to perform and/or influence on the County's provision of services
 - b. Cooperation between organizations and agencies to reduce service delivery inefficiencies, duplication of effort, and duplication of administrative overhead
 - c. Actual benefits resulting from past funding (if applicable)

Applications must be received no later than July 31, 2015 by email to Kimberly.Wiggins@co.laplata.co.us. Requests will be considered as part of the development of La Plata County's 2016 budget process, and you may be requested to present your application to a review committee or to the Board of County Commissioners. This will be the only application period for funding for 2016 and the Board does not generally consider out-of-cycle funding requests. Final award decisions shall generally be made by December 8, 2015. If funding is granted, monies will be available no earlier than February 5, 2016 and may be subject to ongoing reporting and/or audit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the application form or process, please contact Belinda Villanueva by email at Belinda.Villanueva@co.laplata.co.us or by phone at (970) 382-6320.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC SERVICE AGENCY
BUDGET TEAM

Sarah Jacobson
Office Manager

Belinda Villanueva
Controller

Sarah Rome
Sr. Accounting Tech

Kimberly Wiggins
Financial Analyst